

# NEWS

INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT



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## **The Department of Workforce Development dedicates \$4,000,000 to help energize local economies**

The Department of Workforce Development announced today \$4,000,000 available to help local economies fill in the road map for economic development in Indiana. This move will provide a new source of funding for eligible Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) throughout the state to encourage and improve partnerships among business, labor, education, government and local economic development organizations.

“Local partnerships in communities throughout the state are essential to a successful work force development system,” said Alan Degner, commissioner of the Department. “These grants will help those partnerships concentrate efforts on the Energize Indiana industry sectors. That’s important if we are to see economic growth.”

The Energize Indiana plan won bipartisan support and was passed by the Indiana General Assembly earlier this year. It has been praised as the most ambitious and far-reaching economic development plan in Indiana history and focuses on creating jobs and economic growth through Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, 21st Century Logistics, and Information Technology.

Funding for the grants is provided by DWD through federal Workforce Investment Act dollars from the US Department of Labor. The Indiana Human Resource Council will work closely with DWD to assist WIBs in applying for up to \$400,000 in these fast-track grants by the November 17, 2003 deadline.

Preference will be given to projects that support the objectives of Energize Indiana and encourage partnerships to expand local WorkOne systems. Other kinds of activities encouraged are efforts such as expanding youth services; engaging employers to help remove employment barriers for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency; expanding local employment services; and upgrading worker skills that focus on the four Energize Indiana targeted sectors—especially those in areas of occupational shortages. WIBs must also show a projected return on investment.

*For information on requirements for this grant or application details contact Patrick Vercauteren at (317) 232-7182.*